

MEMO

To: Members of the Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) and Elected Officials
From: Joe Blakeman, Reeve Lac Ste. Anne County
Date: June 6, 2024
Subject: Insurance Claim Denial and Public Communication

Dear Members of the RMA and Fellow Elected Officials,

I am writing to inform you of an unfortunate development concerning Lac Ste. Anne County's insurance claim related to damage sustained by our Administration Building. As many of you are aware, this building has experienced significant structural issues, leading to extensive investigations and legal actions.

Background

In 2019, RMA Insurance acknowledged their responsibility for resulting damages and made an interim payment. They assured us that further payments would be made once the full extent of the damage was determined. In conjunction with this, they supported our lawsuit against the parties who designed and built the building to the extent they had an interest in recovering funds paid.

Recent Developments

In a surprising and disappointing turn of events, RMA Insurance have recently changed their position. Despite our attempts to resolve the matter amicably, they now refuse to honor our claim. This reversal has forced us to initiate a new lawsuit against them, which is currently in the early stages of litigation.

Lac Ste. Anne County is committed to transparency and accountability to our residents. As such, we will be communicating the details of this situation to the public. We believe it is important for our community to understand the challenges we are facing and our efforts to protect their interests.

I feel it is my duty to caution you that the circumstances surrounding our claim may not be unique. Given the stance RMA Insurance has taken, it is possible that other municipalities within the RMA may face similar challenges with their own insurance claims. I urge you to review your insurance policies and prepare for the possibility of encountering similar obstacles.

This situation underscores the need for solidarity and coordinated action among RMA members. I propose that we collectively engage with our insurance providers to ensure they fulfill their commitments and responsibilities to all member municipalities. It may be prudent for us to discuss this matter further and explore potential joint actions.

Lac Ste. Anne County remains dedicated to protecting our financial interests and ensuring the well-being of our community. We welcome any support or advice you may offer.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. Please feel free to contact me directly if you have any questions or require further information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Joe Blakeman". The signature is stylized with a large loop at the beginning and a long horizontal stroke.

Reeve Joe Blakeman, Lac Ste. Anne County

CC: Mr. Shane Getson, MLA for Lac Ste. Anne Parkland
Lac Ste. Anne County Council
Mike Primeau, County Manager for Lac Ste. Anne County